

## **ARTS OF PEOPLE**

Story of every day, ordinary people with extraordinary story life, telling about them, in cool and upclose, and to inspire!

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# **From Hobby To Passion – The Young Writer And Author**

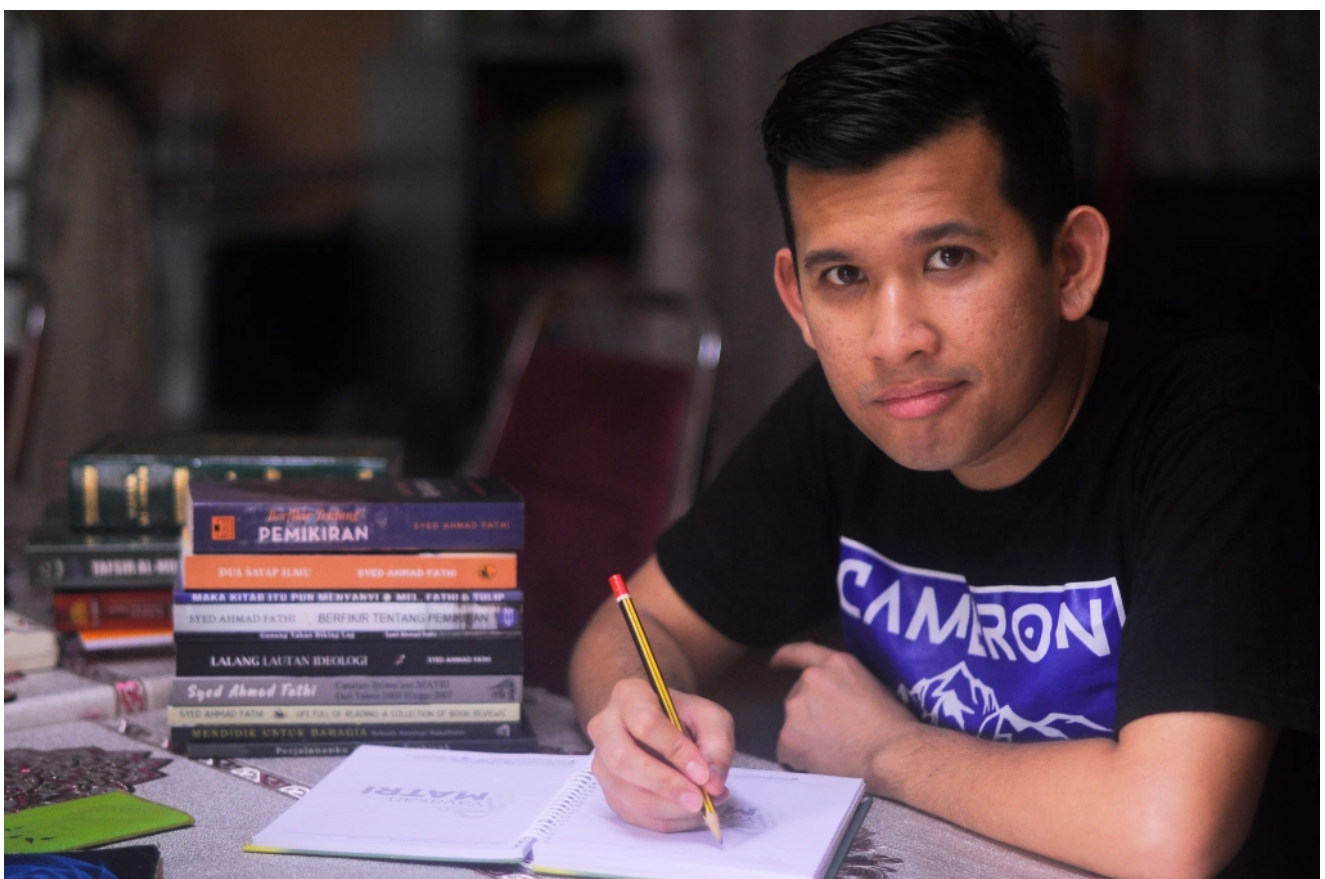
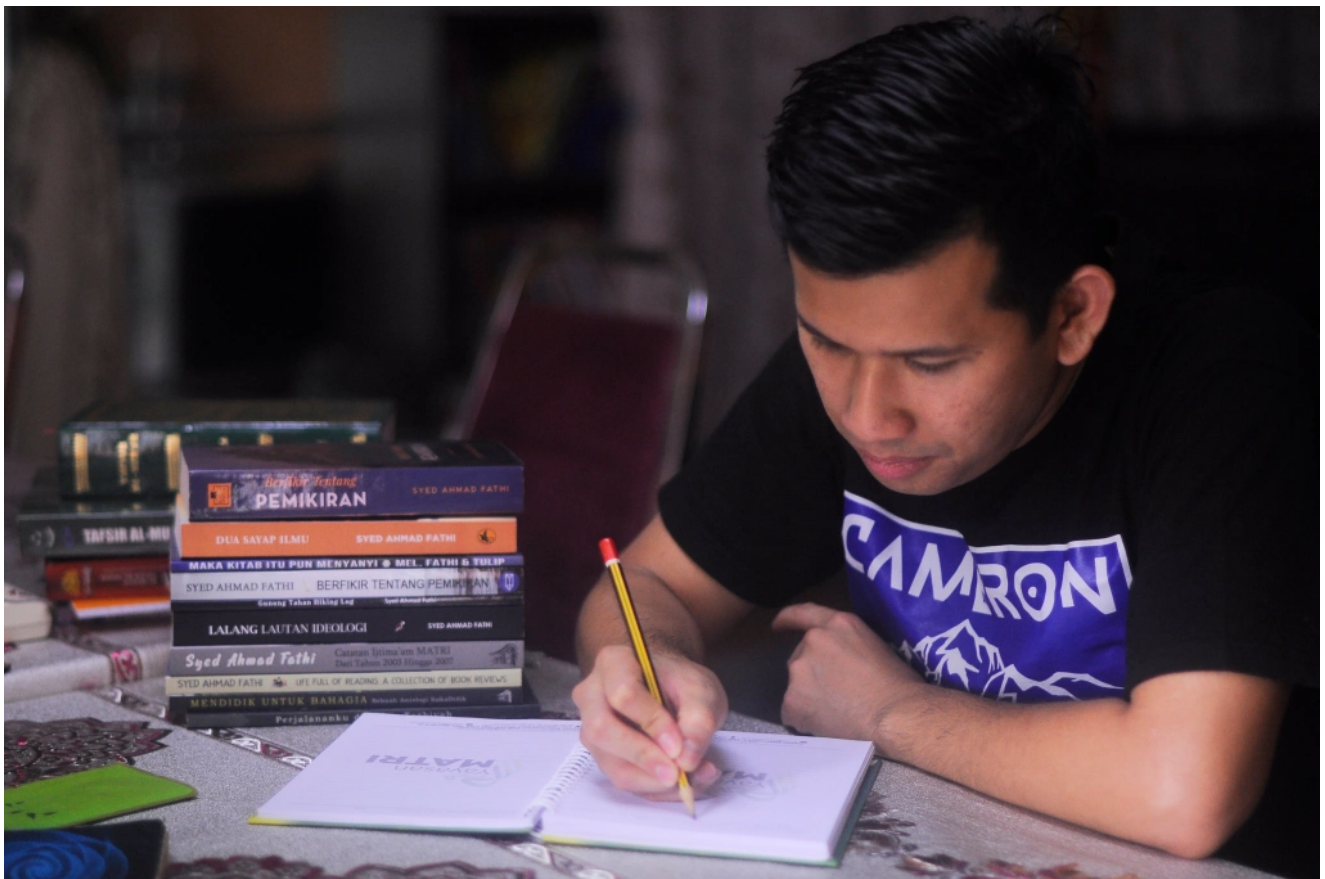
AOP met self-published writer, using his real name rather than pseudo-name or a pen-name, Syed Ahmad Fathi. Born in 1990, a year before the collapsed of Soviet Union, he sure he should be 33.



The reason why Syed choose to go with his real name because he afraid, it will change in the future, time to time. And so, he decided, as it's easier and less confusing.

Personally, Syed is a data analyst by trade also specialized in shipping, maritime data, and worked with a multi-national company. On spare time, he did volunteer for NGO's, often with HALUAN Malaysia as a humanitarian aid worker during flooding season. He also help various community education programmes, and too, been volunteering to other NGO's such as Reef Check Malaysia, Missing Maps, National Cancer Society Malaysia, to name a few.

Apart from his day to day job, he also collaborated with many of his friends in various projects as a chief editor for an online independent portal, The Independent Insight. Else than that, Syed a regular co-podcaster with Kultura Podcast, and in free time, he like to read books and write. He wrote on multiple outlets, be it physical or mostly are online such as, book, zine, blog, website, portals, and academia.



Talking about his background, Syed stated he love learning new things. He believe in life-long learning. With Bachelor Degree in Marine Engineering from St. Petersburg State Marine Technical University, Russia, and advance Diploma in shipping operation with Institute Of Chartered Shipbroker, UK, he's still a

student currently. Now enroll for Master Of Art with Universiti Sains Malaysia, majoring in South-East Asian History.

With our question, why he do what he do today, his answered, that he believe life is worth living. As his sense, he feel like life is more meaningful if we do multiple things. As we explore, as we try and fail, meet people, and discover new ideas. For him, that's his "why" that kept him going, and so, he doesn't like being in static and sit at the same place. He like to look around and see what the world has to offer. Reading and writing for him served as a ticket for all these wonders.

AOP asked, what he went through. Syed said, when you do something, it will be harder rather than you not doing anything. But there was no fun for him at that point. He like to do things that people said cannot be done, and sometimes he burned his finger! He too admitted that he was also criticised and that's the price for he willing to pay to enjoy the adventure. To him, not all was fun. Reading and writing can be a long agonising process, as you have to sit for hours sifting materials and to write something out of it. He had to had cups of coffee to endure the long hours to finally enjoy the ripe fruits of his labour.





As for what it takes to be where he is now, for him it took patience and grit to be able stay at the desk, to read and write when the world say you should sleep. From the very start he know that he don't have any talent, but he recognised he has effort and that, what it takes, to stay consistent, work through failure, also never settled. He believed, by work hard enough, willingness to learn, and accept extra challenge, you will see yourself running faster every day, you will see many talented people are running behind you someday.

He learned that he don't learn enough, and when he read and write, he understand that there are other things to learn as he'll find more interesting things to do and it was what he learned through the process, and learned that



real wisdom was to understand that you don't understand enough, therefore it will move you to go on a journey of learning and discover more.



If it a hobby or passion, Syed said, it's a hobby and passion at the same time. He can't really differentiate whether it's a hobby or passion. He think it's both, he added. He started to write to express himself, to convey his opinion, later to shared whatever ideas he found interesting as it's became an avenue for him, and sure that his writing will evolve again in the future. Evolve he meant by learning, as if you can change your mind, you can learn something and at some point, he feel like writing has become a compulsion! As his soul will not rest until he put something on paper.

We asked for his lesson as words to readers, to him, never settled and never stop learning. Reading, writing, will make life more interesting, more fulfilling, as we have limited number of breath to spend in this short fleeting life, so we must try our best to live it fully! And Syed quoted from Horace who once wrote, "*Quam minimum credula postero, carpe diem!*". Don't trust tomorrow, seize the day!



Syed's latest book, *Dua Sayap Ilmu (Two Wings Of Knowledge)* now available for purchase.

AOP learned from Syed's journey, be it writing and reading, in whatever you do, go for more in your own pace. To contact him, and for list of his books, you can direct email him at [fathi137@gmail.com](mailto:fathi137@gmail.com), Twitter at <http://twitter.com/Fathi137>, IG @/syedahmadfathi, Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/syedahmad.fathi> and blog at <http://bersamakepuncak.blogspot.com>

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